App. F. IX-4

1948-49 Archy.

File No. 7-48

Serial Nos. 1-62

Previous References.

Later References.

Dep. Archy 4/51-52.

p. 22 (E)

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Serial Nos. Two

Part B for March 49.

SUBJECT

Visit of the Hon'ble Minister for Education to New Delhi on the 5th Feb. 1949 in connection with the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology

To,

The Secretary
Central Advisory Board of Archy
& Deputy Dr. General of Archy
New Delhi

No. E. 7A16 | Archy 7-48

dated 27/1/49

Verma 5/2

CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHAEOLOGY

GENL. & REV. SECTN. 7586 17 JAN. 1949 EDN. BRANCH

The next meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology will be held at New Delhi on Monday the 7th February 1949.

2. The time and place of the meeting together with the Agenda and programme will be communicated later. Arch. 7-48-1

A copy of the minutes of the last meeting is sent herewith.

4. Any resolution which the members wish to move in the meeting of the Board should be sent to the Secretary not later than the 15th January 1949.

5. Members requiring accommodation at New Delhi should write to the Secretary as early as possible but not later than the 15th January 1949.

Who is the member? What time are any? Will write draft if? May perhaps by forenoon to the 15/1/49. + to see 15/1/49

H.L. Srivastava
SECRETARY

Curzon Road, New Delhi.
31.12.48

Arch. 7-48 (1,2)

only
Shri Srivastava's file on the subject nominating Shri Nur. for Shri as a Member of the Central Bd. of Archaeology is herewith Sirs
KAS
17.1.49

Secy
Min-Edn 17/1

17/1/49

N.B.—Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied, or slips pasted on this form.

C. F. 74.] WD 03286—GPB—25 000—1-8-48

Routine Notes. 7586

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

The Minister for Education has requested to be a member of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology. The meeting of the Board is notified to be held on 7/2/49. The same has been intimated to us. I would like to attend this meeting and also to make use of the occasion for knowing the attempts made and the results achieved by the Govt. of India in regard to several educational subjects

Chief min w/c

Date 22/1/49

Yes RCA 22/1/49

Immediate card placed. HOD

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
Date 22.1.49
No. 3913

Dewan w/c ARM 22/1

This may be intimated by air mail time + place of meeting together with the Agenda requested to be sent by air mail

Date 22/1

N.B.—Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied, or slips pasted on this form.

Rec'd 24 1. 49 1.45 pm

7586

E

Draft subs. for approval.

KAS
24.1.49.

24/1

Con. Secy.

Done
24/1

Do.

The Secy.
Central Advisory Bd.
of Archaeology,
New Delhi.

No. E. 7305 / Archg. 7-118-2.
dt. 25.1.49.

Sir,

I have the honour to say that I will attend the meeting and request you to furnish me agenda by Air Mail

Draft subs. as instructed

Sub A
25.1.49.

KAS
27.1.49.

27/1

Con. Secy.
Done & submitted
Con
27/1/49

DUPLICATE RECEIPT
No. 27/1/49

Archy 8075

E

Do.

The Secretary
Central Advisory Bd. of
Archaeology, New Delhi

No. E. 7416 d. 27 49

Sd/- that the Minister for Edn. will leave Delhi by air on 6.2.1949 and arrive at New Delhi at about 5 pm. on the same day and also requests him to make necessary arrangements for the stay of the Minister and his staff at the Constitution House.

Sd/- No. 28/12/49-1059 dated 1.2.'49 from the Secretary, Central Advisory Bd. of Archaeology on the matter.

The Secretary Central Advisory Bd. of Archaeology has forwarded a memorandum on the publications of the Archaeological Deptt. and a permit to the Minister for admission to Committee room B North Block Secretariat.

Serial No.

where the meeting will be held

It further states that two single suites have been reserved for the Minister for Edn. and his staff in the Constitution House

States. ~~The Agent~~

KAS 2.2.49 Sir The memorandum received re: the publications of the Depot of Archaeology is also for perusal of

Edn-Minr) 2/2

The meeting was held on 1/2/49 The Minister for Education Govt of India Commenced the meeting with an introductive address. The Agenda Covered 10 subjects and they were all gone through. Before offering my own remarks on the subjects I referred particularly to two subjects of importance to the State: (1) Conservation of the Gomateshwara Colossus at Sravanbelgola and the recovery of the Art Treasures carried away by the British on the fall of Srirangapatna in regard to which a definite request only a few days ago was asked from the Archaeological Dept of the Govt of India and that had been furnished

Note.—Contn. Sheet

Serial No.

It was left to the Nizam Govt. to seek further help if found necessary as regards the (2) subject. No promise was made to consider the same if a reference was sent to the Govt of India.

I visited the Art Exhibition arranged in the Government House and the Officers of the Govt of India explained the importance of the exhibits from a cultural point of view. Among them there were some belonging to Nizam and their beauty appealed very strikingly.

In the evening there was a Social Party arranged by the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in his own residence which I also attended. He was requested to pay a visit to Nizam during the Grand Durbar to receive the Honorary Degree proposed to be conferred on him.

Chief Min & Dewan

Hyd 9/3/40

Rec'd 11/3

Hyd 17/3

Office of the Educational Adviser to the Government of India
Date 10.3.49.
No. 4-8-60.

To the Chief Minister
No. 6076
Date of Despatch 11/37.
Date of Receipt

Office of the Educational Adviser to the Government of India
FOR EDUCATION
Date 15/3/49
No. 4-9-32

WD 02353—GPB—30,000—11-5-48

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION 4

Bangalore, 2nd February 1949.

M 207/48-9

DEWAN'S OFFICE
4FEB1949
No. 3861

Office of the Chief Minister
No. 5407
Date 3.2.49

HRN

In connection with the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology I intend leaving Bangalore for New Delhi on 6-2-49 by air. The occasion will be utilised to pay visits to some Educational Institutions and particularly the Training Centre for Basic Education conducted at Wardha in which some of our own teachers are receiving training. I expect to return by about the 11th instant.

Chief Minister
and
D e w a n
W/C

2/2/49.

Rea
3/2

Submitted to His Highness.

I submit herewith, for the gracious perusal of His Highness, a note by the Minister for Education regarding his visit to New Delhi on the 6th February 1949 in connection with the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology.

A Ramaswami Mudaliar

D E W A N.

Bangalore,
5th February 1949.

Record of Cases submitted for the Orders of His Highness the Maharaja.

Subject.

Visit of the Minister for Education to New Delhi on the 6th February 1949 in connection with the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology.

Order.

972.

K.N.
9/2/'49.

Chief Sec
9/2

10/2
10/2/49

General and Revenue Secretariat.

C.1181/48

7

WD 03994—GPB—1,000—28-9-48

SUBJECT:—

Visit of the Minister for Education to New Delhi on the 6th February 1949 in connection with the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology.

Circulated to Council of Ministers for perusal of His Highness' orders ~~before/after~~ issue of orders.

Chief Secretary to Government.

Through the Secretary to Government,

Education Department.

C1843 16.2.49 1. Chief Minister.

2879 17.2.49 2. Minister for Finance and Industries.

5380 4/2 3. Minister for Law and Labour.

2250 23/2/49 4. Minister for Revenue and Public Works.

10238 26/2/49 5. Home Minister.

4153 28/2/49 6. Minister for Local Self-Government.

5352 3/3 7. Minister for Public Health and Excise.

4315 12/2 8. Minister for Education.

9580 14/2/49 9. Minister for City Municipalities and Muzrai.

GENERAL & REVENUE SECRETARIAT Council Section 12 FEB 1949 CONFIDENTIAL BRANCH

B

NOTE.—Contn. sheet

Secretary to Government, Fdn. Department with compliments. 3.3.49.

No. 24876

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(North Block only)

This Temporary Permit is valid ~~for the date of issue~~.

New Delhi, the 25/4 1949

Visitors are requested to return this pass to the Gate Keeper on completion of their visit.

Name Minister for Education Govt of Mysore

Object of visit Discussion

Name of Officer to be interviewed Smt Rama Rao

~~Receptionist~~,
for *the Ministry of Home Affairs.*

AIR MAIL

No. 28/12/49- 10599 8074

New Delhi, the 1st February 1949

FROM

Madho Sarup Vats, Esq.,
Deputy Director General of Archæology in India,

To

The Secretary to Government, Education Department
General and Revenue Secretariat, Bangalore.

SIR,

With reference to your letter No. E7416, dated 27th January, 1949, I have the honour to inform you that two single suites have been reserved for the Hon'ble Minister for Education to the Government of Mysore and his staff in the Constitution House, Curzon Road, New Delhi, from 6th to 8th February, 1949.

A temporary permit for the Hon'ble Minister for admission to Committee room B, North Block Secretariat, New Delhi, where the meeting will be held, is sent herewith.

Secretary,
Central Advisory Board of
Archaeology.

English Translation of Hindustani Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, on the occasion of the 6th Meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology.

FRIENDS,

In welcoming you to the annual meeting of the Advisory Board of Archæology, I wish to share with you certain thoughts about the development of archæological studies in this country. Our main concern must naturally be with the programmes of future expansion, but it is only right and proper that before we do so, we should give some thought to the progress of such studies in India and elsewhere till now.

It has for many centuries been recognised that outside China the three most ancient centres of civilization in the world have been India, Mesopotamia and Egypt. For centuries scholars all over the world have been interested in their history. It has also been recognised for the last 200 years that archæology offers almost the only key to the history of ancient times. Paper was unknown in these early days, and even after it was discovered records written in paper perish far more easily than the history which is written in stone and metal.

Egypt, Mesopotamia and India.—Recognition of this fact led extensive archæological survey and excavation in Egypt and in Mesopotamia with the result that we have to-day a fairly satisfactory account of their ancient history. In the case of Egypt not only have the secrets of her ancient hieroglyphics been deciphered, but her history ranging back to 5000 B.C. with the achievements of her 32 royal dynasties has been uncovered. In Ninneveh and Babylon, excavations have unfolded to us the history of the ancient civilization built by the Sumerians and the Akkadians some five thousand years ago.

Entire libraries of books written on earthen tablets and even a dictionary of the language have been found giving us an insight into the life of the times. It is, therefore, surprising that so far as India is concerned, no attempt was made to utilise the resources of archæology to discover her ancient history. It would be literally true to say that the history of India is still concealed in the depths of the soil waiting for the archæologist who will bring new data to light for reconstructing the history of ancient India.

One reason of this comparative neglect of archæology in India may be that Egypt and Mesopotamia are right on the fringe of European civilization. For many centuries, the Mediterranean basin has been the home of European culture and modern European civilization has obvious affiliation with these areas. Nor can it be forgotten that the Old Testament is full of references to both Egypt and Mesopotamia so that Europe felt a natural interest in their past history. Another reason for European interest in these areas may be that the Arabs had developed historical science to a high level of excellence. We find that even before the rise of modern Europe, elaborate studies had been undertaken by Arab historians in the civilization of Egypt and Mesopotamia. It was, therefore, natural that European scholars should take to the study of these civilizations and carry out the extensive excavations which have lit up the history of ancient times.

In spite of the facts mentioned above, it still seems somewhat strange that archæology should have developed so late in India. A European power was paramount in the country for almost two centuries. It saw specimens of architecture and monuments which proclaimed a proud and ancient civilization. It was also aware that the civilization here dated back to a dim past of which only fragmentary knowledge was available to the world. Its officers must have come across ruined cities and monuments which promised to be an excavator's paradise. It is on record that as early as the beginning of the century the well-known historian Elphinstone and Barnes when they were marching towards Afghanistan were struck by the mounds they found in the district of Rawalpindi. They also came

across Greek coins and speculated whether the mounds they saw contained the ruins of the ancient city of Taxila. In spite of all these incentives to archæological survey, hardly anything was done in any part of India till the middle of the *nineteenth* century.

Beginnings of Archæological study in India —The Asiatic Society of Bengal was, as in so many other fields, the pioneer of archæological studies in the country. It decided in 1796 to found a museum for housing collections made by officers of the East India Company. An impetus to the study of Indian archæology was given by the discovery in the 2nd quarter of the nineteenth century of the key to Brahmi and Kharoshi scripts by James Prinsep. In 1848 General Alexander Cunningham impressed upon the Government of India the necessity of preserving ancient monuments by the appointment of a suitable officer. His suggestion was accepted and in 1860 Lord Canning established the Archæological Department with Cunningham as the first Archæological Surveyor of India. To Prinsep and Cunningham, India owes an incalculable debt for the preservation of Indian monuments.

I do not wish to go into the details of the chequered history of the department since then In 1866 the department was sought to be abolished, but it was revived in 1870 under pressure of public opinion. The work of the survey was extended to South India only in 1874. There was an impetus to the development of the department under Lord Lytton and the Indian Treasure Trove Act VI of 1878 was passed. After 1889 there was again a disruption in the department and for several years the work was in a state of complete abeyance. The department was, reconstituted after 1895, but it was only with the arrival of Lord Curzon that it received a fresh lease of life. Lord Curzon regarded the promotion of archæological study; the encouragement of research and the preservation of the relics of the past as part of the "Imperial Obligation to India" and re-established the department with Sir John Marshall as Director-General of Archæology in 1902. It was at the

instance of Lord Curzon that the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act VII of 1904 was passed by the Indian Legislature. In 1921 archæology including the Epigraphic Branch was taken over as a central subject and since then it has continued as such even though the activities of the department were seriously curtailed during the retrenchment campaign of 1931.

Present activities.—During recent years, the department has undertaken important work of excavation of which the most notable are the Khokrakot Excavation, District Rohtak, East Punjab, in 1937; Sardhari Excavation in N. W. F. P., in 1938; and the Ahichchhatra Excavation in Bareilly, U. P., during 1941-43. Some work was also done in 1940 in Rajghat, Banaras. In 1944 the excavation branch was reconstituted by the Government of India and excavations were undertaken in 1944 at Taxila, in 1945 at Arikamedu near Pondicherry, in 1946 at Brahmagiri and Chandravalli in Mysore State, at Harappa in 1947 and at Sisupalgarh in 1948. Exploration of Megalithic sites in the Madras presidency was also started from 1946. Survey of the Chitaldurg district has now been completed and some work done also in Cochin. There are several new sites which the department propose to take up as soon as the work at Sishupalgarh has been completed, and its report published. These are at Amravati in Guntur and Rajgir in Bihar.

Till now, not much work of excavation has been done in the Indian States. Such work, especially in Bikaner and Jaisalmier, has however attained a new importance since the partition of India. Most of the sites explored to have a clear idea of the Indus Valley civilization have fallen within the boundaries of Pakistan. Bikaner and Jaisalmier were, however, an important centre of that civilization in the past. It is, therefore, hoped that a thorough exploration of sites in these areas may throw new light on the history of the civilization connected with the Indus Valley organisation and set up.

The department has no provincial centres but for purposes of carrying out archæological work in the provinces, it has

been divided into seven circles. namely

1. Northern Circle, Agra.
2. Central Circle, Patna.
3. Eastern Circle, Calcutta.
4. South-Eastern Circle, Vizagapatam.
5. Southern Circle, Madras.
6. Western Circle, Poona.
7. Delhi Circle, New Delhi.

The department has also helped societies and bodies whether governmental or private in carrying out excavations. It is now helping the Allahabad University in the excavations at the well-known site of ancient Kausambi. It has also offered assistance and advice to various local societies and research institutions.

The work of the department is divided into four branches namely, Epigraphical Branch, Chemical Branch, the Excavation Branch and the Museums Branch. Another important activity of the department is the publication of the results of excavation and other research work. The publications of the Archæological Survey of India have at times assumed different forms and represented various degrees of scholarship and merit, but they have on the whole constituted a noble mine of information for any future historian of India.

Future Programme.—It is now proposed to revive publication of the Archæological Memoirs which was suspended during the war. Material for two volumes are already in hand. In addition, the department propose to issue a series of short guides to archæological monuments and corpori of inscriptions. It is also proposed to publish picture post-cards, albums of monuments and museums in addition to the regular journals like "Ancient India", "Epigraphia Indica", "Epigraphia Indo-Moslemica" and the various annual reports.

The publication policy of the Department also requires revision and expansion. Till now, almost all our publications

have been in English. The time has now come when publications in important Indian languages must be undertaken in order to make the results of research available to the general citizen. I propose to make a beginning in this respect as soon as possible.

I have referred to the desirability of the issue of albums and picture post-cards in order to popularize the work of the department with the general public. This must be done on a far wider scale than has been the case till now. Two types of albums should be produced. There should be albums for presentation at a somewhat higher price which could be used not only by lovers of art in India and outside but also by schools, colleges and other educational institutions for prizes to deserving students. A second type of cheaper album should also be placed in the market to bring it within the reach of the general public. Simultaneously, the department should discuss with the Ministry of Communications for arranging for the issue of picture post-cards by post offices throughout the country. This would reach a far wider public than any other method.

I feel that we must also canvass the possibility of utilizing the film in order to present our archæological and architectural monuments to the people of our country and the world outside. Well produced films would not only bring out the beauty of such buildings but also make them alive and interesting to vast numbers of our people. Other countries have used films as a media for educating the people in the ancient history of the land. Here in India also, a provision could be made by which every cinema would be required to show for at least 10 minutes films depicting some aspect of Indian History and Culture.

I have pointed out to you that our history is still concealed beneath the surface of the earth. A fresh start of exploration and excavation on a much larger scale is necessary for unearthing that history. This requires strengthening the staff in all branches and a complete re-organisation of the department. I am also impressed with the necessity of providing permanent

training facilities for students outside the department. Such training is essential for successful archæological work and you will be glad to hear that we have recently sent two officers for advanced training in the U. K. I have not lost sight of the urgency of a properly equipped National Museum for India. A beginning has already been made, and I am doing all that is possible to bring the scheme to a successful conclusion as early as possible.

Conclusion.—You will, however, realise that in view of the present financial difficulties, it may not be possible to do all that is desirable or necessary. Nevertheless, archæology is so important for a proper appreciation of our history that something must be done in spite of present difficulties. I can assure you that the Government of India will do whatever is possible within the limitations of finance. You must also advise the Government how best to utilise our limited resources during the period of stringency and prepare a long-term programme of work which can be undertaken as soon as economic position improves.

GIPD—L178—Mof Edu—5-2-49 1000

E 7305 D | 25th Jan 49 4

By Air Mail.

D.O.

Archy 7-48-2

The Secretary,

Central Advisory Board

of Archaeology,

Curzon Road, New Delhi.

Sir,

With reference to your letter ~~xxx~~. dated 31.12.'48 intimating that the next meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology will be held at New Delhi on Monday the 7th Feb. 1949 I am directed to state that the Minister for Edn. to the Govt. of Mysore will ~~be~~ attend the above meeting. In this connection I am directed to request

3 on to be so good as to-

intimate the time and place

of ~~The~~ meeting ~~atcmpe~~ The ~~Secretary~~ ~~with the~~

Agenda for the meeting. ~~The~~ — may be sent by Air Mail kindly

~~Letter may therefore be addressed to the Secretary Registered Air Mail.~~

3.7

Jm 24/5

for Sg. to sanction

if

SR Dgm

KAS

By Air Mail 5

E7416. D/27-1-49

To

The Secretary,
Central Advisory Board of Archaeology
~~Curzon Road, New Delhi~~.
& Deputy Director General of Archaeology
Curzon Road
New Delhi

Sir,

In continuation of this Office letter No.E.7305/Archy. 7-48-2 dated 25-1-1949 stating that the Minister for Education to the Government of Mysore will attend the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology to be held at New Delhi on Monday the 7th February 1949, I am directed to inform you that the Minister will ~~be starting from this place~~ leave Bangalore by air on 6-2-1949 and ~~will be~~ arriving at New Delhi at about 5 P.M. on the same day.

~~In this connection~~ I am directed to request you to be so good as to make necessary arrangements for the stay of the Minister and his staff at the Constitution House.

Yours faithfully,

Th 27/1

For Secretary to Government,
Education Department.

KDS